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Message Text

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53
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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APPROVED BY NEA ADUBS
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NEA/PAB:PCONSTABLE
INR:DHOWELLS
---------- 076312
R 171603Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT REPORTING ON RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH HAS BEEN BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND TIMELY. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CONCERNED.

2. WE ARE ASKING THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO UNDERTAKE QUICK ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN INDIA OVER NEXT SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS. WOULD APPRECIATE NEW DELHI'S VIEWS ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (OR ANY OTHER YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE) AS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR STUDY:
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" -- WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR MRS. GANDHI'S REMAINING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE NEXT ELECTIONS? IF SHE SHOULD RETIRE OR BE FORCED FROM OFFICE, WHO WOULD SUCCEED HER?

-- WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS NOW FOR THE NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS (BOTH IF MRS. GANDHI WINS AND IF SHE LOSES HER APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT)? IF CONGRESS LOSES ITS MAJORITY, WHAT WOULD NOW SEEM THE MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT?

-- WOULD THE DEPARTURE OF MRS. GANDHI OR THE DEFEAT OF CONGRESS IN THE NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS HAVE ANY

SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA'S INTERNAL STABILITY? WHAT ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE MILITARY?

-- TO WHAT EXTENT WILL INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD AFFECT INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH THE UNITED STATES, PAKISTAN, CHINA, AND THE USSR? "

3. ADDRESSEE POSTS ALSO INVITED TO COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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